

We claim:

- 5 1. A method of making paper in which a web of papermaking fibers is supported by the web-contacting surface of a fabric, wherein the structure of fabric is purposefully modified, either while the fabric is on-line or off-line, such that the structure of the resulting paper is changed.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the surface texture of the fabric is modified.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the drainage characteristic of the fabric is modified.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the web-contacting surface of the fabric is modified without removing the fabric from the papermaking machine.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the web-contacting surface of the fabric is modified without halting the rotation of the fabric.
- 20 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the fabric is removed from the papermaking machine, the web-contacting surface of the fabric is modified, and the fabric is returned to service.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the fabric is a throughdrying fabric.
- 25 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the fabric is a forming fabric.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the fabric is transfer fabric.
- 30 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the web-contacting surface of the fabric is thermally modified by heating the fabric surface, reconfiguring the heated fabric surface to change the web-contacting surface texture and cooling the fabric surface to set the reconfigured texture.
- 35 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the heated fabric is reconfigured by mechanical deformation.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the heated fabric is reconfigured by through-air-molding.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the web-contacting surface of the fabric is modified by depositing a material onto the web-contacting surface.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the material is removable.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the material is removable by washing.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the material is removable by changing the pH of the washing solution.

17. The method of claim 14 wherein the material is removable by a chemical reaction.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the chemical reaction comprises thermal oxidation.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the chemical reaction comprises thermal hydrolysis.

20. The method of claim 14 wherein the material is removable by dissolution in a non-aqueous solvent.

21. The method of claim 14 wherein the material is removable by exposure to ultra-violet light.

22. The method of claim 14 wherein the material is removable by exposure to ultrasonic vibrations.

23. The method of claim 14 wherein the material is removable by abrasion.

24. The method of claim 14 wherein the material is removable by thermal shock.

25. The method of claim 14 wherein the material is removable by bending the fabric around a small radius.

26. The method of claim 13 wherein the material is deposited by printing or extruding.

27. A method of making a throughdried tissue on a papermaking machine in which a throughdrying fabric contacts and supports a tissue web while the web is being dried, wherein the texture of the web-contacting surface of the throughdrying fabric, while not in contact with the web, is purposefully modified.

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28. The method of claim 27 wherein the texture of the web-contacting surface of the throughdrying fabric is purposefully modified on-line.

29. The method of claim 27 wherein texture of the web-contacting surface of the  
10 throughdrying fabric is purposefully modified off-line.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein the texture of the web-contacting surface of the throughdrying fabric is purposefully modified without removing the throughdrying fabric from the papermaking machine.

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31. The method of claim 29 wherein the texture of the web-contacting surface of the throughdrying fabric is purposefully modified after removing the throughdrying fabric from the papermaking machine, wherein the modified throughdrying fabric is thereafter installed on the papermaking machine.

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32. A method of making tissue comprising:

(a) making a first throughdried tissue on a papermaking machine in which a throughdrying fabric contacts and supports a tissue web while the web is being dried, wherein the texture of the web-contacting surface of the throughdrying fabric imparts a first  
25 texture to the first tissue;

(b) reforming the web-contacting surface of the throughdrying fabric from a first texture to a second texture; and

(c) making a second throughdried tissue wherein the second texture of the web-contacting surface of the throughdrying fabric imparts a second texture to the  
30 second tissue.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein the throughdrying fabric is reformed without removing the throughdrying fabric from the papermaking machine.

34. The method of claim 32 wherein the throughdrying fabric is reformed while the  
35 papermaking machine is running.

35. The method of claim 32 wherein the throughdrying fabric is reformed without halting the rotation of the throughdrying fabric.

5 36. The method of claim 32 wherein the texture of the papermaking machine contacting side of the throughdrying fabric is modified during reforming.

37. A method of making paper on a papermaking machine in which a web of papermaking fibers is supported by the web-contacting surface of a forming fabric which imparts a  
10 watermark to the web, wherein the web-contacting surface of the forming fabric is purposefully modified, either while the fabric is on-line or off-line, such that the watermark imparted by the forming fabric is changed.

38. A method of making paper on a papermaking machine in which a web of papermaking  
15 fibers is supported by the web-contacting surface of a forming fabric, wherein the forming fabric is supported by an open form roll sleeve which imparts a watermark to the web, wherein the open form roll sleeve is purposefully modified, either while the form roll sleeve is on-line or off-line, such that the watermark imparted by the open form roll sleeve is changed.

20 39. A used papermaking fabric having a web-contacting surface wherein the structure of the fabric has been purposefully modified for re-use.

40. The papermaking fabric of claim 39 wherein the texture of the web-contacting surface  
25 has been purposefully modified.

41. The papermaking fabric of claim 39 wherein the structure of the fabric has been purposefully modified by the addition of material.

30 42. The papermaking fabric of claim 39 wherein the structure of the fabric has been purposefully modified by removal of material.

43. The papermaking fabric of claim 39 wherein the structure of the fabric has been modified by heating, reforming and cooling the fabric.  
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44. The papermaking fabric of claim 39 wherein the fabric is a woven fabric.

45. The papermaking fabric of claim 39 wherein the fabric is a non-woven fabric.
46. The papermaking fabric of claim 39 wherein the fabric comprises a combination of  
5 woven and non-woven components.